to the Mujahideens in Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to media reports to this effect.

(b) Government is opposed to all forms of interference and intervention in Afghanistan. We favour a negotiated political settlement of the issue which takes into account the legitimate interests of all concerned. We support the UN Secretary General's initiative in this regard.

Clearance of sub-standard goods for export

688. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints received so far during the last three years, year-wise against the officers of the Export Inspection Council and the Export Inspection Agency for clearing sub-standard goods for export;

(b) what is the nature of complaints and the particulars of officers against whom complaints were received;

(c) what action has so far been taken on these complaints;

(d) what are the details of the firms whose goods were found to be sub-standard; and

(e) whether Government propose to hold an inquiry into the whole affair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (e) No complaints have been received from foreign buyers directly against officers of EIC or EIAs as such. Whenever complaints are received from importers against exporters relating to quality, these are enquired into. Appropriate action is taken against officers/employees and against exporters for lapses, if any. During the last three years, action was initiated against 20 officers/employees and 27 exporters/manufacturers.

Revolving venture fund

689. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been received by Government for the establishment of a revolving venture fund to assist and promote export-oriented industries; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade deficit with EEC

690. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit with the European Economic Community is 40 per cent of India's total trade deficit;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to increase India's exports to the EEC countries and reduce the trade deficit; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the details thereof?